(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं, इस संबंध में किन-किन देशों के मामले में यह प्रतिबंध हटाया जायेगा और सरकार ने इस दिशा में क्या कदम उठाए हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध मे विदेशी मुद्रा के संभावित अर्जन के बारे में कोई आंकलन किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हा, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नही उठता ।

Indian Territory under Foreign Control

2209. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total area of land India had at the time of attaining independence in the year 1947 and what is its total area of land at present;

(b) what are the reasons for the shrinkage in the area of land and what are the names of the countries which have been occupying the land; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to get back the Indian land which is being occupied by other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Information on the total land area of India at the time of attaining independence in 1947 is being collected from the Surveyor General of India and will be laid on the Table of the House. The total area of India presently is 32,87,263 Sq. Km.

(b) The area in Jammu & Kashmir under the illegal occupation of China is approximately 38,000 Sq. Km. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary agreement, of 1963, Pakistan has illegally ceded approximately 5.180 Sq. Km. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

The area of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir under the illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan is approximately 78,000 Sq. Km.

(c) (i) India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question and this task has been entrusted to the India-China Joint Working Group.

(ii) Government are committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations.

Concession to Haj Pilgrims

2210. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop sea voyage to Saudi Arabia for Haj pilgrims ; if so the reasons thereof ;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce air service for Haj pilgrimage ;

(c) what is the difference between the air fare and sea fare ;

(d) whether Government have any plan to grant concession on air tickets for Haj pilgrims ; if so, the percentage of concession ;

(e) whether Government will consider granting identical air-concession to pilgrims going to Jerusalem, Rome or other holy places ;

(f) whether such concession will be granted on inland flights ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government has decided that all the pilgrims will be carried by air beginning from Haj 1995. The reasons for discontinuation of ship are as follows :

1. The facility for travel by ship was available only to a relatively small number of pilgrims as compared to the total number of Indian pilgrims proceeding for Haj.

2. It was difficult to adhere to the time-frames prescribed by the Saudi authorities for arrival and departure of pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia in the case of sea pilgrims.

3. Saudi authorities encourage the performance of the Haj by air. They have created infrastructural facilities for handling all the pilgrims coming by air.

4. Pilgrims going by ship had to stay for 65 days in Saudi Arabia as compared to 45 days for pilgrims by air. In view of high cost of living in Saudi Arabia, many pilgrims faced problems of running short of funds.

5. Till 1994, India was one of the four countries in the world which sent its pilgrims by sea also. For Haj 1995, only two neighbouring countries i.e. Egypt and Sudan will ferry their pilgrims across the sea.

6. The amount of subsidy, direct or indirect, for sea travel for Haj 1994 was Rs. 32000 as compared to Rs. 5,000 per pilgrim by air. Government considers that expenditure on Haj could better be used to ameliorate the conditions of pilgrimage for all pilgrims.

(c) For Haj 1994, each pilgrim was charged a sum of Rs. 12000 for air journey to and from Saudi Arabia. Fares charged from the pilgrims travelling by sea were as follows :

— Bunk Class	Rs. 3750
— Cabin Cat. I	Rs. 8750
— Cabin Cat. II	Rs. 8500
— Cabin Cat. III	Rs. 8250.

(d) The decision on the amount of the Haj fare to be charged from pilgrims and the expenditure to be borne by Government thereon will be decided nearer the time of the Haj.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Delay in Payment of Compensation to Sufferers of Gulf War

2211. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Indians who suffered losses during Gulf War have yet to receive compensation as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th November, 1994 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to expedite such cases lying pending ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Indian claim has been paid out so far.

(c) Nothing is pending with GOI. All claims have been sent to the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, after processing.

(d) It is the exclusive responsibility of the United Nations Compensation Commission to scrutinise and evaluate the claims, evolve the payment procedures and deliver the awarded compensation to eligible claimants for payment through national Governments. It is not possible to estimate the timing or the value of payment which may eventually be made by the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Rupee-Rouble Exchange between India and Russia

2212. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the fate of rupee-rouble exchange ;

(b) whether Russian Government has decided to auction rupee in open market ;

(c) what is the fate of Indian business in Russia after open market system adopted by Russian Government ;

(d) whether Russian policy has been changed regarding Kashmir ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Trade with Russsia is being conducted in freely convertible currency in accordance with an Inter-governmental Agreement signed in May, 1992, with the effective rate of exchange between the Indian rupee and the Russian rouble within Russia being determined through market forces. In respect of repayment of past credits owed to the former Soviet Union, the Agreement signed during President Yeltsin's visit to India in January, 1993, provides for a negotiated rupee-rouble rate of exchange in accordance with which repayments are being made in Indian rupees, to be liquidated through import of goods and trade related services from India to the Russian Federation.

(b) No, Sir. Debt repayment rupees have so far not been auctioned by the Russian Government though special allocations have been made through tender.

(c) According to available figures, Indian exports to Russia were Rs. 2004 crores during 1993-94, while our imports from Russia were Rs. 810 crores. While no separate figures for Russia were compiled by DGCIS prior to this, India's exports to the former USSR were Rs. 1693 crores, and imports were Rs. 745 crores during 1992-93. During April-August 1994, India's exports were Rs. 910 crores and imports Rs. 418 crores with respect to Russia.

(d) No, Sir. The Russian Government continues to take the position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved between India and Pakistan on a bilateral basis in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972. It is against the internationalisation of the issue.

(e) Does not arise.

Secret Arms deal between France and Pakistan

2213. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent arms deal under which France has decided to sell three Agosta-90B class submarines to Pakistan ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed sale of these submarines in the much